

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-13 /084 W
-----180710Z 050543 /11

R 172332Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2190
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 07688

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MX
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA NAMED AMBASSADOR TO
DEVELOPING NATIONS

REF: MEXICO 6874 NOTAL

1. GOM ANNOUNCED AFTERNOON MAY 16 THAT FORMER PRESIDENT
LUIS ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ HAS BEEN NAMED "SPECIAL AMBAS-
SADOR TO THE DEVELOPING NATIONS". THE TWO PARAGRAPH
SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBED
THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S DUTIES AS "CARRYING OUT ANALYTICAL
STUDIES IN INSTITUTIONS HAVING TO DO WITH DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER MATTERS OF SPECIAL IN-
TEREST WHICH THE PRESIDENT MIGHT ASSIGN TO HIM".
ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL FAMILY MEMBERS, ECHEVERRIA LEFT
MEXICO IMMEDIATELY ON A SIX WEEK TRIP WHICH WILL TAKE HIM
TO FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, AND THE PRC. IN A SHORT AIR-
PORT SESSION WITH REPORTERS, THE FORMER PRESIDENT SPOKE
OF HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT WITH APPARENT ENTHUSIASM.

2. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY SANTIAGO
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ROEL IN PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 4 RAISED POSSIBILITY OF
ECHEVERRIA SERVING AS AMBASSADOR, DENYING AT SAME TIME
THAT DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS WOULD BE USED BY GOM AS A
FORM OF POLITICAL EXILE.

3. REPORTERS IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT OUT CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
LEADER AND ECHEVERRIA LOYALIST AUGUSTO GOMEZ VILLANUEVA,

WHO PRAISED THE APPOINTMENT. OTHER PUBLIC FIGURES MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS; ONLY THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY DESCRIBED THE APPOINTMENT AS AN "INTERNAL MOVE ALIEN TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE".

4. PRIVATE COMMENTS REFLECTED THE POLITICAL POSITION OF THE SOURCE. AN EMBASSY CONTACT WHO WORKS FOR GOMEZ VILLANUEVA WAS UPBEAT ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT, CLAIMING ECHEVERRIA'S NEW POSITION WOULD GIVE HIM A PUBLIC PLATFORM, BUT ADMITTED IT WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. A WRITER FOR THE SCHERER GARCIA MAGAZINE, PROCESO, PREDICTABLY SAW THE APPOINTMENT AS EFFECTIVE POLITICAL EXILE.

5. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, THE GOM OFFERED ECHEVERRIA THE AMBASSADORSHIP IN EITHER PARIS OR PEKING, WHICHEVER HE PREFERRED. APPARENTLY THE FORMER PRESIDENT BEGGED OFF, PLEADING INVOLVEMENT IN THE MEXICO CITY BASED THIRD WORLD INSTITUTE, WHICH HE INAUGURATED IN SEPTEMBER 1976. IF THIS IS TRUE, ECHEVERRIA MAY HAVE FOUND IT HARDER TO REFUSE A POSITION DOVETAILING SO NICELY WITH THIS INTEREST.

6. ALTHOUGH ECHEVERRIA'S PUBLIC COMPORTMENT HAS BEEN DISCREET, RUMORS OF HIS MEETING FREQUENTLY WITH FORMER POLITICAL ASSOCIATES AND OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S DISPLEASURE HAVE BEEN WHISPERED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. WE BELIEVE ECHEVERRIA IS IN FACT BEING EASED OUT OF THE COUNTRY, ALBEIT CEREMONIOUSLY. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770549/aaaabqcl.tel
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Litigation History:
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